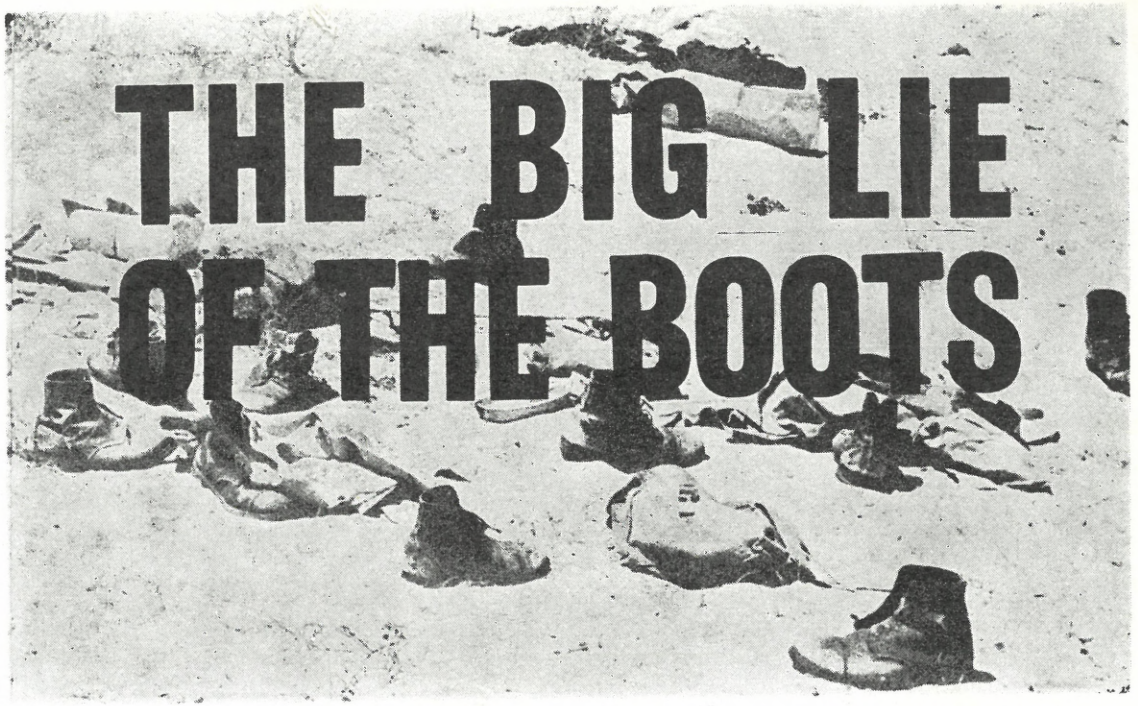
# THE BIG LIE OF THE BOOTS



PARIS MATCH 17 JUNE 1967

The myth of the boots was started by Israel after the Sinai Campaign in 1956. According to the Israeli propaganda machine, repeated many times over by gullible Western newspaper who print as gospel anything coming from an Israeli source, Arab soldiers in the Sinai desert were constantly taking off their shoes « in order to run away more quickly »... « They threw away their boots in order to travel lighter through the desert » (Henriques, **100 hours to Suez,** p. 89).

This story found a credulous public all over the Western World and went in fact completely unchallenged for over ten years. Very few people knew the nature of the terrain in Sinai or the temperature of the sand, etc., and of course no « fair-minded, fact-searching » Westerner was going to be convinced by what one or two Egyptian commanders had to say.

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PARIS MATCH, 24/6/67

The story this time looks completely different. Although the same thing was repeated over and over again and the same photographs published, almost with the exact captions, the Israelis and their friends have this time overreached themselves. They have become too intoxicated by their victory to care about what facts to publish and what facts to suppress. We are glad to say that in order to refute this monstrous lie, we have relied almost entirely on Israeli and Zionist sources and photographs.

Here is then how the real story goes:

(1) The Israelis forced their prisoners-of-war to take off their shoes, as shown by the opposite picture. (page 3).

Although we don't have photographic evidence to show that this is what happened in 1956, the stories told by returning prisoners of war at that time have gained more credence.

(2) Having deprived these prisoners of their boots, the Israelis then let them loose in the desert. According to the Brazilian Magazine **Manchete** (1 July 1967, p. 14) : « Israel did not try to increase the number of its prisoners. It disarmed many of them and expelled them ».

(3) Anyone who has ever been to the beach in a mildy hot country must realize the consequenses of this act : it is almost impossible to walk on sand whose temperature is over 40 degrees centigrade for more than one or two yards, after that it becomes real torture.

(4) It is quite clear therefore that Egyptian prisoners of war could not themselves have thrown away their only pro-

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tection and chosen to walk on sand and rocks whose temperature at that time of the year, in the Sinai desert is anything between 60-70 degrees centigrade.

(5) It is also quite clear that if their boots were available to them, those who survived would not have had to take off their underwer in order to bandage their feet.

These pictures make it obvious that no one in his senses would throw away his boots in order to get deliberately scalded, then wrap his feet with bandages. They also make obvious what kind of torture Israel's prisoners-of-war were subjected to.

(6) The Israelis themselves admit that conditions in he Sinai were very hard to endure « The heat at any time between nine o'clock and four in the afternoon was almost unbearable, often close to or even above 40 degrees centi-

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grade, in the shade, the metal of the tanks and guns exposed to the sun was hot enough to raise blisters on unprotected flesh » (**Jerusalem Post Magazine,** June 1967, p. 5).

While their prisoners were deliberately exposed to death by thirst, hunger or burns, **their Foreign Minister** Mr. Abba Eban was complaining at the U.N. that « the U.S.S.R. makes the obscene comparison between Israeli troops and the Nazis ».